nerve is subjected. But the very occurrence of this reflex paralysis, as it was once assumed by Brown-Sequard, is at present a matter of serious doubt. Wood, however, admits that an antagonistic force to the inhibitory centre is likely to exist, to reason by analogy, and may also have a share in the production of fever; whether, however, this force is the chemical tendency of the tissues themselves, or whether the *depressor* is antagonized by an *accelerator* chemical nerve is as yet a matter of doubt. Certainly some substances seem to act on the tissues themselves; thus our author found a reduction of temperature by nitrite of amyl after division of the cord, and the same was proven for alcohol by Binz, etc. Murri has also succeeded in producing the same grade of fever in dogs by injection of pus before and after section of the cord. Wood himself did not find the inhibitory centre paralyzed in pyæmia, since he could lower the temperature by stimulation of the sensory nerves. If Heidenhain did not succeed in that, it was owing probably to his having employed feeble currents, while Wood made use of a decidedly intense irritation. Still, Wood claims for the centre, if not paralysis, at least a state of paresis in pyæmia; but even this is a matter of doubt in view of the fact that Murri could obtain pyæmic *fever* after separation of the tissues from the inhibitory centre. Besides, Wood obtained a greater reduction of temperature in the feverish than in the normal animal by stimulating sensory nerves, and still he finds it "an almost necessary inference that in septic fever the inhibitory centre has lost in part its susceptibility." This rashness of conclusion is an unpleasant feature in an otherwise highly creditable American production. H. G.

IV.—BEARD AND ROCKWELL: ELECTRO-THERAPEUTICS.

A Practical Treatise on the Medical and Surgical Uses of Electricity, including Localized and General Faradization; Localized and General Galvanization; Electrolysis and Galvano-cautery. By Geo. M. Beard, A.M., M.D., and A. D. Rockwell, A.M., M.D. Second edition, revised and mostly rewritten, with nearly two hundred illustrations. Large 8vo. 794 pp. New York, 1875: Wm. Wood & Co. Chicago: Jansen, McClurg & Co.

In writing a notice of the second edition of a well-known work, it is rarely necessary to go much beyond generalities. It usually differs from its predecessor only in that the author has remodeled a few paragraphs, added a little here and there, so as to bring it more nearly up to the existing state of knowledge on the subject the closing one on the surgical uses of electricity, hardly require any extended remarks from us. The first seems to be a very satisfactory exposition of the general scientific principles, a knowledge of which is so useful, and, indeed, almost indispensable, to every one who would utilize electricity in medicine. The latter is as complete in its way as the other parts of the book; the history of the subject is first given, then follows a description of the apparatus and the operative procedures, with directions and rules for operating, with remarks on the advantages and inconveniences of the different methods. Some space is given to the plan of electrolysis of malignant tumors employed by Dr. Beard, and called by him, "working up the base." This, however, has been described elsewhere, and we need not dwell on it here. The section, on the whole, would form by itself a convenient treatise on electro-surgery.

Taken as a whole, this work of Drs. Beard and Rockwell is the most complete, as it certainly is the largest, work on the subject in our language. It is not written exactly in the spirit that some other treatises are, that of a cautious, scientific skepticism, but rather in that of enthusiastic specialists—practical, rather than strictly scientific men. This does not, however, in our opinion, detract from its value. Enthusiasm in a good cause is always useful, and there is always enough of the other spirit in the profession to counteract any evil effects from its excess.

There is, perhaps, throughout the book a little too much dwelling on the specialty, a too frequent use of the words "electro-therapeutist," "master in electrology," etc., which will excite unfavorable comment in some quarters. Medical practitioners are not always favorable to medical specialties, particularly those which have been associated in their minds, even indirectly, with any form of irregular practice. Nor, though we hold this in the present case as an altogether needless prejudice, do we ourselves consider that the actual state of electro-therapeutics calls for the limitation of its practice in the hands of a particular class in the profession. There is no reason why every physician should not utilize it to a certain extent in his daily practice, leaving only those cases requiring special treatment with elaborate and costly apparatus to the special practitioner. And whoever now rejects it, through prejudice or ignorance, disarms himself before very many forms and emergencies of disease.

We hope the time will come when the proper therapeutic applications of electricity will be as familiar to every physician as the uses of the most common and well-known drugs, and it is by such works as the one under consideration that this result is to be brought about. In many respects it is one of the most practical and sensible books that has yet appeared on the subject, and if future editions increase in size and value as this one has over the former, it will be the leading work in its department.